



PEST REPORT - THE NETHERLANDS

Two larvae of *Anoplophora chinensis* in hedgerow of company importing *Acer palmatum* plants from China

Introduction

On December 7, 2009, inspectors detected one *Carpinus* tree with one recent exit hole of *Anoplophora chinensis*. Further destructive analysis at the laboratory revealed two larvae of this harmful organism. At the same location 7 old exit holes were detected in two old dead stumps of *Acer palmatum* (see pictures 1-4). All plants were part of a hedgerow at a company, which has a long history of imports of *Acer palmatum* from China (at least since 1993). The hedgerow was covered by climbing evergreen *Hedera sp.* plants. It is the second location that individuals of this pest managed to survive outdoors resulting in egg deposition on native trees in the Netherlands (see pest report, January 2008 – www.minlnv.nl/pd). The number of specimens of the pest (two larvae) is considerably less than during the first outbreak, which is located approximately at a distance of 30 km from the present finding. Investigations have been initiated to determine whether a viable population of the pest is actually present in the area. By simultaneously removing and destructive sampling of each individual plant in a range of 100 m. surrounding the finding it is also intended to eradicate any remnants of viable life stages of the pest.

Because the finding is located in the center of the major tree nursery area 'Boskoop', a buffer zone of 2 km surrounding the infested trees has been demarcated. Phytosanitary measures have been taken for ensuring pest freedom of the buffer zone as well as ensuring that all relevant companies are officially registered as pest free places of production. Details are described hereunder.

Details of the finding

Most likely the source of the finding is related to previous imports of *Acer palmatum*, as the company has imported large quantities of plants for planting from China and Japan. The company is located in the centre of a small town, adjacent to another company and multiple small private gardens. The company is located in the centre of one of the major tree nursery production areas of the Netherlands. There are no forest areas in the vicinity. The hedgerow is located within five meters of the unloading and packing location of the company.

Immediately following the detection of the exit holes, all three trees were uprooted for further examination at the National Reference Laboratory and for determination of the age of the exit holes. Two living larva near the stage of pupation were found in the *Carpinus* tree. The exit hole in the *Carpinus* tree dates to 2009. The two *Acer palmatum* were dead and decaying without any recent signs of *A. chinensis*. The age of the *Acer* exit holes was estimated to be at least 2 to 3 years old and probably much older. All neighboring trees and shrubs of deciduous plants have been destructively sampled in a range of 3 m. (including large trees up to 6 m. in height of *Ilex*, *Eounymus*, *Corylus*, *Quercus*, *Fraxinus*, *Rhododendron* and *Sambucus*), and no further signs of the pest have been detected.

Pest status: Transient – actionable, under surveillance. The pest has been detected as an occurrence of two larvae that is not expected to establish.

Phytosanitary measures demarcated area 100 m. radius

Before the end of March the aim is to uproot and fully examine every single plant of all deciduous plants, *Cryptomeria sp.* and *Pinus sp.* in a radius of 100 m around the three infested plants. This intensive surveillance area includes two companies, 27 private gardens and gardens of 5 public buildings. So far approximately half of all trees has been removed without detection of any galleries in trunks, stems or roots and without detection of egg deposits on bark. In the 100-200 m. range surrounding the finding each individual plant is being thoroughly examined and no signs of the pest have been detected thus far.

This approach aims at prompt detection as well as eradication of any possible life stages of *A. chinensis*. The deadline for completion of this plan is 31 March 2010, well before any appearance of adults of *A. chinensis* can be expected. The flight season for *A. chinensis* is envisaged between end of May and September as based on Italian experience.

Phytosanitary measures buffer zone.

For providing additional phytosanitary safeguards for plants for planting moving in international trade, an official buffer zone has been demarcated. Based on at least 1,550 official annual inspections carried out in preceding years this bufferzone is considered an area where the pest does not occur. All places of production in the buffer zone of 2 km radius surrounding the infected tree are already registered for issuance of plant passports in line with other EU requirements. On average two inspections are carried out for each place of production each year for complying with EU requirements for movement of plants for planting. The coming weeks an additional inspection together with destructive sampling of each lot and other relevant plants (e.g. hedgerows) will be carried out, before any movement of plants for planting from a place production is permitted. All relevant premises and fields of each place of production within the buffer zone will be subjected to these measures. These requirements concern companies growing or trading any of the relevant host plants stipulated in Commission Decision 2008/840/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Anoplophora chinensis*.

Additional close quarter inspections at other survey locations throughout the Netherlands

During the last two weeks of December and the first week of January close quarter inspections have been completed throughout the Netherlands at 41 locations not resulting in any other findings. These locations concern companies having imported *Acer* trees or received *Acer* trees directly after import in the past or locations where signs of the pest have been detected on lots imported from Asia in the past.

Figure 1: Old *Acer palmatum* trees covered by *Hedera sp.*



Figure 2: Exit holes of *A. chinensis* in *A. palmatum* become visible after removal of *Hedera sp.*



Figure 3: *Carpinus sp.* Following removal of *Hedera sp.*



Figure 4: Exit hole of *A. chinensis* in *Carpinus sp.*



Figure 4b: enlargement exit hole in *Carpinus sp.*

